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Repeat Tax Evader Pleads Guilty to Two Count of Tax Evasion

SANTA FE - A repeat tax evader who owes thousands of dollars in back taxes to the State from a previous conviction has pled guilty again to two counts of tax evasion for not paying his personal income taxes for the years 2006 and 2007.

Phillip Sierra, of Albuquerque, entered into a plea agreement late Monday evening before First Judicial District Court Judge Stephen Pfeffer. Sierra, 49, was placed on three years of probation and ordered to pay over \$3,000 in back taxes, plus penalties and interests. Last June, a Santa Fe grand jury indicted Sierra on two felony counts of tax evasion for failing to pay his personal incomes taxes for 2006 and 2007.

In 2005, Sierra pleaded guilty to two counts of tax evasion for not paying his personal income taxes from 2001 through 2003. He was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay over \$53,000 in tax due, interest and penalties. Sierra told the court at the time that he had been advised by his tax preparer, who is not a CPA, that he was not required to pay taxes. Sierra still owes thousands of dollars in back taxes from the 2005 conviction.

This case was prosecuted by the First Judicial District Attorney's Office in Santa Fe and investigated by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division. To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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